

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, I would emphasize once again that this would be a major mistake for us to bring this bill back. It is a \$140,000 cost item. We recognize the concerns that Senator Hoagland has about trying to deal...and Senator DeCamp, about some of these judges that are burned out. But the way to encourage some effort in this burnout phase is not to have this early retirement benefit because then everybody will feel burned out eventually because they will set their sights at a lower figure to retire and they will take advantage of that benefit, obviously, and instead of helping the situation, we are going to make it worse. In fact, there are other options to deal with burnout, and burnout is not just relegated to the judge. It is there with the teacher. It is there with the state employee. It is there with all the different individuals in whatever line of work they may have. They get burned out. Work is hard. It is a difficult task to do some of the different jobs that we have to do in this state. And everybody would like to retire early if they have the chance, but almost nobody can. And we are going to provide to the judges a benefit that we are not going to provide to other people and eventually those other people are going to come to us and say, hey, we want the same thing. Now the key point I think is this, we are going to deal with that early retirement concept and the concerns of judges' burnout. I have talked to Chief Justice Krivosha and we do have legislation introduced to provide an actuarially reduced benefit to judges that retire early. That is what all the other employees have. It is the fair thing to do. But to give a full benefit for early retirement for judges I think is a tremendous mistake, a costly mistake and we should not support the resurrection of this bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Von Minden.

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I would just like to say, they sure don't give up, do they. We gave them a whole lot last year and they want more this year. This whole thing of burned out is a copout for everybody. I get burned out in my job. I can't see where being a judge is no big burnout job. I think it's...like Senator DeCamp said, we have some lazy judges who want to retire earlier on our money, and if we do have lazy judges